

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-27 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 28-54:

28. A method for restoring p53 transactivation activity in a cell containing a mutated p53 protein, the method comprising introducing into the cell a single-chain antibody which binds the mutated p53 protein.

29. The method according to Claim 28, comprising introducing into the cell a nucleic acid which comprises a sequence encoding the single-chain antibody under the control of a promoter which functions in the cell.

30. The method according to Claim 28, wherein the single-chain antibody specifically binds an epitope present in the C-terminal region of p53.

31. The method according to Claim 30, wherein the epitope is present between residues 320-393 of p53.

32. The method according to Claim 30, wherein the single-chain antibody comprises a sequence as depicted in SEQ ID No. 2 or SEQ ID No. 4.

33. The method according to Claim 29, wherein the nucleic acid is part of a vector. (P)

34. The method according to Claim 33, wherein the vector is a viral vector.

35. The method according to Claim 34, wherein the vector is a defective recombinant adenovirus.

36. The method according to Claim 34, wherein the vector is a defective recombinant retrovirus.

37. The method according to Claim 34, wherein the vector is a defective recombinant adeno-associated virus.

38. The method according to Claim 34, wherein the vector is a defective recombinant herpes virus.

39. The method according to Claim 33, wherein the vector is a chemical or biochemical vector.

40. The method according to Claim 28, wherein the mutated p53 protein is devoid of tumour-suppressing activity.

41. The method according to Claim 40, wherein the mutated p53 protein is a form which is present in tumour cells.

42. The method according to Claim 41, wherein the mutated p53 protein is selected from the group consisting of p53H273, p53W248 and p53G281.

43. The method according to Claim 28, wherein the cell is a tumour cell.

44. The method according to Claim 43, wherein the tumour cell is from a lung, colon, head and neck, hepatic or brain tumour.

45. A method for modifying the conformation of a mutated p53 protein, the method comprising incubating the mutated p53 protein with a single chain antibody under conditions wherein the antibody binds the protein and changes its conformation.

46. A method of treating a hyperproliferative disorder involving a mutated p53 protein, the method comprising administering to a patient suffering therefrom a single chain antibody which binds the mutated p53 protein and restores transactivation activity of the protein.

47. A method of treating a hyperproliferative disorder involving a mutated p53 protein, the method comprising administering to a patient suffering therefrom a nucleic acid encoding a single chain antibody which binds the mutated p53 protein and restores transactivation activity of the protein.

48. The antibody 11D3, or a variant thereof which binds the same epitope on p53 protein.

49. A nucleic acid encoding an antibody according to Claim 48.